

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comment on Mr. Bissell's Recommendations for
Production on Intelligence on International
Communism

REFERENCE : Mr. Bissell's Memorandum for the Director, dated
25 March 1955

1. I concur in Mr. Bissell's recommendations as set forth in the referenced memorandum except for certain statements concerning the administrative arrangements for the staff which is to evolve as "a Senior Research and Planning Staff". (See paragraphs 5, 6c and 6d of referenced memo.)

2. As I understand it this staff would look at the world through the eyes of a COMINTERN, or its equivalent, and provide us with a chart of the times as the Communists would see it. The result would not be a periodic round-up of a type familiar to us now but a Communist policy and status report of a sort which presupposes rare ability and thorough knowledge of the history and development of the Communist movement. We are all aware of the difficulties inherent in such an assignment, and Mr. Bissell prudently recommends that we begin by detailing two or three senior officers to this work in the hope that the desired staff will evolve as these officers become familiar with the present efforts devoted to research in International Communism. Mr. Bissell does not, however, answer the question of whether these senior intelligence officers and their eventual staff should be administratively responsible to the Deputy Director (Intelligence) or to the Deputy Director (Plans). I do not regard this as a minor matter and do not concur in leaving the question open for future consideration.

3. The intelligence officers who are to undertake the assignment outlined in paragraph 5 of Mr. Bissell's memorandum should be administratively responsible to the DD/I. To permit ambiguity or uncertainty on this point is to invite unacceptable departure from sound principle and to ignore common prudence. An essential condition for the success of the proposed "Senior Research and Planning Unit" is that it maintain objectivity in its examination of International Communism,

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

free from any sense of personal or organizational responsibility for operational plans, successes and failures. This condition is clearly recognized by Mr. Bissell in his memorandum. It is not in derogation of operations to say that this condition is only assured by an administrative subordination of these officers to the intelligence, as opposed to the operations, side of the house. The word "planning" in the name of the proposed staff is misleading unless it is understood as referring primarily to Communist planning. It should not refer to U.S. planning for operations.

4. It is understood, of course, that these officers must be acceptable to the DD/P and possess his confidence as men of discretion and understanding.

5. I strongly recommend, therefore, that the senior intelligence officers who are to constitute the senior staff outlined in Mr. Bissell's recommendation be intelligence officers detailed to this assignment by the DD/I.

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/ Intelligence

O/DD/I
RAMory/hmf
11 April 1955

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DDI-DCI-1

Page Denied